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THE ENGLISH LEAFLET

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F. W. C. HERSEY, SEC'Y AND TREAS.

CHARLES SWAIN THOMAS, EDITOR

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A NEW LIST OF THEME-TOPICS

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF THE NEWTON HIGH
SCHOOL, NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

The suggestion to formulate and compile the accompanying list of theme-topics came from the publication of a similar list in the January number of the bulletin of the Illinois Association of Teachers of English. Realizing the value of the Illinois list, the English Department of the Newton High School set to work to invent and collect titles designed to stimulate thought and emotion and thus direct expression along the more unconventional channels. In our discussions we agreed that, as teachers of composition, we had been most successful when we had assigned topics that encouraged the candid exposure of personal experience and the simpler analysis of their fears, ambitions, antipathies, and attractions. In a word, that teacher succeeds best who most clearly perceives the pupil-ego as the most natural center of interest and the most convenient station of departure. And this interest is all the more vigorous if to the pleasure of intimacy there be added just a bit of the charm of novelty.

It will be noted that we have not included in our list

many topics that are drawn from literature or those that call for encyclopedic knowledge. These have already been printed scores of times in various texts on rhetoric, and are easily formulated by any teacher.

We make no apology for departing from the established custom of dividing all theme assignments into *narration*, *description*, *exposition*, and *argumentation*. We believe that the pupil needs — foremost, frequently, and finally — emphasis upon that type of topic that will express what is within him — his particular experience, his intimate emotions, his fancies, his fears, his hopes, and his ideals. The free expression of these experiences and these emotions is far more valuable than any technical mastery of the somewhat intangible traits and boundaries of the four accepted discourse-forms.

Nor is it assumed that the mere assignment of certain striking topics will supply all the necessary mental or emotional urge. The experienced teacher has found that considerable time allotted to assignments is wise economy. Informal comment and questioning, such discussion as will develop candid expression on the part of one or two class leaders, will arouse unsuspected power—a power that is likely to emerge only with the clarifying of the demand and the intent of the assignment.

We have made no attempt to differentiate the titles suitable for oral work from titles suitable for written work. We are not sure that such a differentiation is possible; we are convinced that it is here undesirable. The individual class, the individual teacher, the individual pupil will more wisely decide. In general the topics are capable of either form of treatment.

The collection of the topics is the combined work of

the English Department of the Newton High School. Our Association is more particularly indebted, however, to Miss Margaret Goldsmith, Special Assistant in English. She is largely responsible for the arrangement and for the introductory matter; and upon her has fallen most of the routine work.

—THE EDITOR.

I. IN WHICH "I" AM THE CENTER OF INTEREST

"Out of the fulness of the heart, the mouth speaketh." This is as it should be. The majority of high-school students, however, have to be snared into thinking they have something to say. The theme title is the trap, and the fun lies in baiting it properly and then waiting to see what one may catch. One hopes to catch first the personality of the student, not his artificial self marked "for theme-work only." The fatal idea that compositions demand qualities of other-worldliness, has to be overcome before this personality shows itself. The subjects of conversation offer the first clue. Students like to recount their own antics and mishaps to each other, and can put them into shape for the whole class to hear when read or spoken, if the theme topic casually assumes that one's own adventures in living are fit for the class-room. In preparing for the assignment with the pupils, we can make it very evident that they are to hear each other's productions and have the opportunity to criticize them. This writing for an audience of keen-minded familiars, rather than for the teacher, has a stimulating effect. The wording of the subjects from which the individual may choose, is just as much of a trick as the casting of the line in fishing. The more immature the student, the more definite and alluring must the phraseology of the title be. "The Meanest Thing I Ever Did" can not help having point, where "A Day at the Country Fair" may violate every rhetorical principle, unless the writer has acquired or inherited a sense of form.

(a) *Experiences*

1. How I Poisoned the Family
2. That Furnace of Ours
3. Sleeping Three in a Bed
4. An Insane Fourth
5. My Narrowest Escape
6. My First Hero-Worship
7. The Old Carriage House

8. When One Made a Quarrel
9. What I Found in the Barn
10. Heroine-Worship
11. A Near-Adventure
12. The First Time I Went to the Theatre
13. That Golf Ball
14. A Cool Reception
15. The Meanest Thing I Ever Did
16. Initiation Night
17. The Funniest Accident
18. Being a Pirate
19. Buying a Ticket for the World's Series
20. When My Teacher Was Wrong
21. On the School Special
22. The Circus in our Barn
23. When I Was a Newsboy
24. A Dramatic Performance in Our Attic
25. The Trials of an Amateur Photographer
26. Controlling my Temper
27. Managing Mother
28. Gross Neglect
29. Purposeful Delays
30. Missing my Boat
31. Buying an Article I Did not Want
32. Shopping on a Rainy Day
33. My First Experience in a Sleeping Car
34. Sleeping Out in the Winter
35. Sleeping under Difficulties
36. Rowing with a Broken Oar
37. Solid Comfort Rudely Disturbed
38. The Greatest Fear of my Childhood Days
39. My First Real Conquest
40. My Air-Castle Bombarded
41. Tending the Baby
42. An Illustration of my Tactlessness
43. A Day at the County Fair
44. When my Flash-Light Proved its Worth
45. Out for a Lark
46. Following the Blazed Trail
47. When I Tried Gardening for Profit
48. A Ride in an Ice Boat
49. Learning to Skate
50. The Perils of the Razor
51. Fighting with a Storm at Sea
52. Christening the Boat
53. Getting Acquainted with a New Neighbor
54. Winning Popularity at a Stroke
55. Overheard in the Street Car
56. Water Day at Camp
57. A Golf Lesson
58. My Experience as a Caddy
59. Killing Time
60. Moored on the Mud Flats
61. An Unexpected Holiday
62. "It Never Rains but It Pours"
63. With the Country Doctor on his Rounds
64. Buying a Hat with the Help of Three Brothers
65. Racing with a Pushmobile
67. Undeserved Praise
68. The Minute that Changed my Day
69. My First Bargain
70. The Unlooked-For Consequences of My Lie
71. What My Honesty Cost Me
72. Ambitions that Others Have Had for Me
73. The Most Satisfactory Conversation I Ever Had
74. Reminiscences on Seeing My Shoes in a Row
75. My Gold Crown
76. A Joke that Fell Flat
77. My Experiences as a Cook
78. When I had My Fortune Told
79. Squelching My Brother
80. Eating at a "Quick Lunch"
81. "I've Just Washed my Hair and I Can't do a Thing with It"
82. An Unpleasant Animal, the Midnight Welsh Rabbit

83. My First Appearance in Long Trousers
84. Skating upon Thin Ice
85. My First Ride in a Jitney
86. Eating at a Chinese Restaurant
87. The Run on My Bank
88. While Ladling the Soup
89. When I was "Absolutely Prepared"
90. How I Outlived the Reputation of My Childhood
91. How I Entertained a "Celebrity"
92. The Worst Break I ever Made
93. Leaping before You Look
94. Riding in a Pung
95. Trying to Grow Thin
96. Making Hay When the Sun Won't Shine
97. Striking When the Iron Is Cold
98. People in Glass Houses Should Look Out for Stones
99. Singing in a Male Quartette
100. Being an Amateur Detective
101. Putting One's Foot In and Getting It Out
102. An Adventure, and a Floor Walker
103. Learning the Code
104. The Time I Did Not Have to Pay the Price
105. Scene: A Haymound
106. A Seedless Garden
107. The Time, the Place,—and the Blow-out
108. Adventures with a Balking Horse
109. When the Lights Went Out
110. Where I "Got Off"
111. Making Change
112. A Rod in Pickle
113. Locked Out of My Own House
114. Trying to Get into the House without Making a Noise
115. How I Astonished the Neighbors
116. The Time I Tried to Use a New Word
117. Trying to Lose a Pair of Gloves
118. Stuffing the Thanksgiving Turkey
119. A Day in a Submarine
120. My Best Fish Story
121. The Key in the Latch
122. When My Intuition Played Me False
123. Cramps when Swimming
124. Guaranteed Hole Proof
125. Dressing the Cat in Dolls' Clothes
126. A Painful Subject to Me
127. The Time I Did Not Give My Seat to a Lady
128. Washing the Kitten
129. My Funeral as Planned When I Have Been Misused
130. What I Heard at a Fruit Stand
131. Our Last Husking Bee
132. The Costume Ball
133. "The Sweetest Wine Makes the Sourest Vinegar"
134. It Might Have Been
135. The Causes and Results of My First Quarrel
136. My Visit to an Artist
137. When the Waterpipe Burst on Sunday
138. A Visit to Chinatown
139. My Unlucky Day
140. The Time I Was Sent to Bed Early
141. "Look Out for the Paint!"
142. Caught in the Act
143. What I Saw When I Looked Down the Chimney
144. When I Forgot to Dust the Piano
145. My Visit to a Country School
146. The Day the Telephone Was Out of Order
147. How I Broke Myself of Insomnia
148. How That Story Grew
149. What I Saved from the Fire
150. Why We Have Our Telephone on the Second Floor
151. The Time I Tried to be Quiet
152. I Amuse Myself in Church (A Reminiscence)
153. Barbed Wire Fences I Have Met and Got Over
154. Tragedies of My Childhood
155. My First College Ball Game
156. My First Dance

157. When Mother Was Away
158. Tomorrow—as I Should Like to Spend It
159. An Afternoon on My Front Porch
160. An Afternoon of Making Sunshine in My Home
161. My Busy Day
162. When I Took Gas
163. At the Photographers'
164. When Thirteen Proved to Be My Lucky Number
165. My First Meal on a Diner
166. How I Felt During My Brother's Wedding
167. My First Formal Call
168. When My Pump Came Off
169. A Day that Was Not Perfect
170. The Disadvantages of Lying
171. Mountains I Have Climbed
172. "Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself"
173. The Time I Disobeyed—and Was Glad

(b) Situations and Self-Analysis

Know thyself has almost lost caste as a worthy aim these days, yet self-knowledge is our chief guide to the understanding of other people, in books and in life. The student is not going to grasp the dramatic significance of certain situations that await the characters in Scott, unless he realizes that he, too, has emotions on occasions. Recall a vivid sensation of his own, label it for him, and you can catch him in the act of thinking.

174. Being an Only Son
175. The Period of Sand Colored Socks
176. Confessions of an Ex-Snob
177. How the Moon Looks at Different Seasons
178. On Being Introduced to the Boy You're Mad At
179. The Sounds I Like to Hear at Night
180. The Joys of Wool-Gathering
181. A Day I Should Like to Live Over Again
182. Alone in a Crowd
183. Before an Open Fire
184. Things I Can Do Without
185. Confessions of a Bluffer
186. My Feeling After a Visit to a Prison
187. Stars to Which I Have Hitched My Wagon
188. Poems I Enjoy
189. The Art of Being Lazy
190. Trials of an Only Daughter
191. The Sorrows of the Bashful Young Man
192. The Fun of Being Poor
193. Judging and Being Judged
194. Why I Want to Grow Up
195. Why I Don't Want to Grow Up
196. The First Telegram I Ever Sent
197. The Advantages of Smiling
198. My Thoughts When Practicing on the Piano
199. Why I Don't Want to Give Up My Seat in the Street Car
200. When Someone Took My French Dictionary
201. Ghosts I Should Like to Meet
202. On Being Told to Do Something Just as I Was Going to Do It.
203. Exploding
204. On Fainting Away
205. How I Felt When I Was Nearly Killed
206. Having a Dress Fitted
207. Posing for a Photograph
208. Being a Bull in a China-Shop
209. The Feeling of Responsibility
210. Autumn Moods

211. Pride of Ownership
212. Accounting for My School Grade
213. Lost in the Forest (or Cave)
214. My Feelings in the Dark
215. How the First Snow-Storm Affects Me
216. Sensations on Being Caught Between Floors in an Elevator
217. When I Heard Three Distinct Knocks in the Wall in the Middle of the Night
218. An Account of My Opinion About Santa Claus (May be varied ad libitum)
219. Apologies for My Extravagance in Shoes (May be varied ad libitum)
220. My Superstitions
221. The Effect of Seeing a Blind Girl Play the Piano
222. Times When I Pity Myself
223. How It Feels to Be Extinguished
224. When I See Dumb Animals Abused
225. My Sense of Direction
226. Embarrassed by My Misspellings (or Bad Grammar)
227. My First A
228. My Sensations After the First Day's Work on a Farm
229. At Graduation—"My Turn Next"
230. Selling Tickets for the Charity Entertainment
231. Misgivings on My First Journey Alone
232. Being Caught Stealing Apples
233. Seeing My Picture in the Paper
234. My Feelings When Crossing an Icy Sidewalk
235. My Favorite Fault
236. My Most Famous Habit
237. Speculation upon Receiving a Mysterious Package
238. Sensations During a Fire Drill
239. Thoughts While in the Subway
240. Sensations Before an Operation
241. Playing a Duet When My Partner Seems a Minus Quantity
242. My First Poetic Inspiration
243. The Way My Worries Increase at Night
244. Why I Always Want to Sew on Sunday
245. What I Think About When I Am Alone
246. When I Boarded the Wrong Train
247. My Feeling When I Was Not Suitably Dressed
248. Playing Tennis With a Girl
249. Having a Rose Cold
250. The Christmas When I Got Six—(Jack-knives, Ties, etc.)
251. Unable to Whistle
252. My Sensations When Soliciting Advertisements
253. Trying to be a Sunbeam
254. When I Ripped My Trousers
255. Waiting for the Bell to Ring on Oral Theme Day
256. How Different Kinds of Sound Affect Me
257. Summoning a Headache
258. Framing Excuses
259. Reforming My Reading Tastes
260. My Thoughts When on a High Place
261. Going Back for a Forgotten Article
262. The Worst Predicament I Was Ever In
263. Teaching My Parents to Obey
264. Suffering from Another's Blunder
265. Interrupting Father
266. Excusing the Criminal
267. Being Taken for the President
268. When I Surprised Myself By Having Something to Say
269. When Someone Plays a Joke on Me
270. When I See My First Report of the Year
271. Elevator Thoughts
272. The First Telegram I Ever Received
273. Ordering Dinner from an Elaborate Menu Card
274. Poise on Receiving One's First Box of Candy
275. In Disgrace with My "Proper" Relatives
276. Concealing the Hole in My Stocking
277. Entertaining Angels Unaware
278. The Results of Taking the Wrong Dress Suit Case
279. My Feeling About Death
280. My Sister's Fiance and I
281. How I Looked When the Minister Came to Call

- 282. Trying to Study When There Is Company Downstairs
- 283. Unaccounted for—Two Cents
- 284. When Trying to Appear at My Best
- 285. Feelings upon Arriving at the Theatre and Finding My Tickets at Home
- 286. Awaiting the Dismissal Bell
- 287. When My Friend Asks for Frank Criticism
- 288. How I Feel When My Parents Are Away
- 289. Choosing a Dance Partner
- 290. Where Our Favorite Visitor Comes
- 291. When That Caller Arrived
- 292. Talking to a Deaf Person
- 293. Studying with the Cat in Your Lap
- 294. When Our Neighbors Keep Their Victrola Going

(c) Letters

Any normal person on being plumped down to write a letter — just a friendly letter — to nobody in particular — has due cause for resentment. Who ever wrote a decent letter that way! When you have news for your friend, when you need to explain something for your peace of mind or his, then you may talk of writing a letter. Therefore, when a class is presented with letter-writing, they should also be presented with the occasions which demand a letter, and they will rise to it, even to an unstarched subscription and a punctuated heading.

- a. A Letter in Which I Make Suggestions Concerning Boys' Books
- b. You have visited the family of your best friend while the friend was abroad. Write to the friend telling about the stay with the family.
- c. Your friend's mother has invited you for a visit at the cottage. Write to her and to your friend, separate letters.
- d. You have the hay fever violently and cannot go to your friend's house party in the country. Write a sufficiently pathetic letter explaining the situation vividly.
- e. You have sent a tennis racquet to your aunt, and an opera bag to a college boy. Write to them both, explaining the complication.
- f. You have absolutely forgotten an engagement for an evening musical. The hostess has left town now. Write to her and apologize in such a way that the hostess will understand your real regret.
- g. You want a cousin of yours in Los Angeles to become acquainted with your best friend who is going there to live. Write so that your cousin will really want to see your friend.
- h. You have attended a wedding. Write to a friend who was invited but could not be present, and tell her about it.
- i. You are at your summer home. Write to your brother who is at work in the city, and cheer him up.
- j. Write a letter telling the experience you are having at an organized camp.

- k. A new family has moved into town, next door to you. Write to your friend who is away at school and describe the new neighbors, their Victrola and their dogs.
- l. You have just had an unusual party for your friends. Write to your cousin who wants ideas for entertaining a similar group.
- m. You know a boy who has a wireless set in a city near yours. Write to him, making arrangement for sending messages.
- n. Suppose yourself writing in 1925. Send a letter to one of your old high-school classmates telling what you are doing.
- o. You have visited a place that turned out to be most disagreeable. Write to a friend who intended to spend a vacation there and tell your opinion.
- p. You have been asked to be on a committee. You do not want to accept. Write a note to the chairman.
- q. You have been shopping for your invalid cousin. Write to her, commenting on your experiences and telling her what you are sending her by parcel post.
- r. A child of six has broken his arm. Write him a letter that will amuse him. Illustrate it if possible.

II. IN WHICH I ASSUME ANOTHER PERSONALITY

The instinct to pretend to be someone else seems given us as the only escape from ourselves. At first we are knights and fairies; later on we are the teacher who talks through his nose, or the puppy picking up a quarrel with the moon; soon, through some sad experience with that teacher or that puppy we learn that each of them has inner mental workings of his own, somehow strangely unlike ours, and infinitely more interesting than the noises he makes. Then the time has come for intelligent impersonation. A call for a soliloquy from one's fountain pen, or a monologue by one's brother, will reveal the fact that the ingenuity and understanding of the student has developed apparently over night.

295. What "Central" Thinks of the Human Race
296. Moses in Modern Times
297. Being the School Principal for a Day
298. A Professor on Grasshoppers
299. The Birds' Peace Conference—Mr. Dove Presiding
300. Soliloquy of a Baby in a Theatre
301. My Brother Expresses His Views on Woman Suffrage
302. Problems of a Small Boy
303. Variations in People's Ideas of:
 1. Temperature
 2. Size
 3. Age
304. Grandmother's Views on Pockets
305. Reminiscences of an Ancestral Bean Pot
306. The Apple Barrel Down Cellar Receives Visitors
307. The Soliloquy of the Weatherman
308. A Missionary's Feelings on Opening a Barrel from the Ladies' Aid
309. The Milliner's Clerk Speaks

310. Complaint of a Cab Driver
311. The Motorman on His First Trip
312. Being a Floor-Walker
313. Night Thoughts of a Puppy
314. Sensations of a Stowaway
315. The Musings of a Fat Girl or Boy
316. The Abused Postman
317. A Barbarian's Thoughts on Seeing the Modern Shoe
318. Father—When the Bills Come In
319. The Coal Driver Reveals His Nature
320. My Opponent Expresses his Views
321. The Poet's Ideas of a Football Game
322. The Old Trapper Grows Reminiscent
323. The Socially Ambitious Young Lady Grows Confidential
with Her Mirror
324. The Advertising Manager of the School Paper Comments
on Human Nature
325. The Stock Broker Muses on His Losses and Gains
326. The Local Editor Reviews the Day's Happenings
327. The Martian Visits New York
328. The Mr. Hyde of My Own Nature Speaks
329. The Old Arm Chair Grows Garrulous
330. Bridget's Remarks on the Family Washing
331. The Tired Shopper Views Her Disappointments
332. The Hurdy-Gurdy Man
333. The Farmer Boy Talks to Himself While He Milks the Cow
334. The City and Country Cousins Exchange Views
335. Robert Burns Speaks in His Own Person
336. The Jail-Bird's Excuse
337. The Cow Comments on His Tormentors
338. The Tortoise as He Plods Towards His Goal
339. A Butterfly Just After Leaving the Cocoon
340. A Farmer's Boy Plans His Day
341. A Soldier Under Fire
342. A Debuntante in an Old Roman Art Gallery
343. A Young Officer First Assumes Command
344. A Run-a-way Recalls His Experiences
345. Grandmother in Her Rocking Chair
346. Reminiscences of an Elevator Boy
347. The Knight of the Chess Board Speaks
348. A Minister Muses, Looking Over the Congregation
349. The Old College Athlete Soliloquizes
350. The Old Veteran Soliloquizes
351. Feelings of an Umpire in a League Game
352. The Baggage Master Talks to the City Reporter
353. The Artist in His More Pessimistic Mood
354. The Circus Clown Unmasks
355. Pericles at a Harvard-Yale Game
356. The Family Butler Lapses Into a Communicative Mood
357. The Defaulter Tells His Story
358. The Laborer Grows Vituperative
359. Trials of a Suburbanite
360. The Man Behind the Snare Drum—Temperature 104°
361. A Child Imitating a Grown-Up

Monologues—The Possible Speaker and His Opening Words Being Given

362. "I'm sorry but—"....Your Friend When You Ask a Favor
363. "If you insist—".....The Town Gossip
364. "I told you so—".....Your Eagle-Eyed Sister
365. "I simply have to have it—".....Pleading Brother
366. "Yes, I went—".....Dutiful, but Disdainful Son
367. "Can't you see I'm busy?".....Father Reading the Paper
368. "Did you take your medicine?".....Family Doctor
369. "Next".....The Barber on Saturday Night
370. "Go to it, boys".....Football Coach
371. "I have the pleasure—".....Toast Master
372. "The Lesson for Tomorrow—".....Your Teacher

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443. The Art of Doing up a Box
444. How to Cover a Book Properly
445. How to Cut and Store Ice
446. Making Soap
447. Shoeing a Horse
448. The Railway System
449. The Ben Greet Players
450. The Amateur Stage-Manager
451. Getting Up Amateur Theatricals
452. My Paper Route
453. The Making of a Magazine
454. The Circulations of Magazine and Newspapers
455. The Making of a Daily Newspaper
456. A Few Good Books
457. The Benefits of a Dictionary
458. The Kind of Book I Should Like to Write
459. Military Drill in the High School
- 459a. The District School
460. The City's Playgrounds
461. The Rights of Pedestrians in the City Streets
462. The Boy Scouts
463. The Camp-Fire Girls
464. How Tennis is Played on Shipboard
465. The Joys of Swimming at Night
466. The Cold-Blooded in Salt Water
467. A Glimpse at the Cape Cod Canal
468. The Swells of West Lynn and Their Causes
469. Trout and Smelt Fishing Contrasted
470. Aquatic Plants
471. How to Make Salt Beads
472. Canoeing Versus Sailing
473. How a Fog Horn Works
474. Catching Scallops
475. Digging Clams
476. An Amateur Clambake
477. Interesting Things Found on the Beach
478. Strange Rock Shapes
479. Harvesting, (wheat, hay, oats, rye, flax, etc.)
480. Filling the Silo
481. Most Recent Achievement
482. How to Have a Beautiful Garden
483. How to Arrange Flowers
484. Why I Should Like to be a Florist
485. The Decorative Use of Wild Flowers
486. My Experience in Collecting Butterflies
487. Birds I Have Studied
488. Superstitions Regarding Toads
489. Development of the Frog
490. Turtles—Their Habits and Mine
491. How We Keep a Cat and a Canary in the Same House
492. Two Friends of Man: The Dog and the Horse
493. Children vs. Monkeys
494. Picking Berries for Market
495. An Up-to-date Farm
496. "Dry Farming" in the West
497. Mushrooms that Grow on My Farm
498. Raising Celery
499. Cranberry Culture
500. Modern Housekeeping Conveniences (Electric tove, Vacuum Cleaner, Electric Washing-machine etc.)
501. How to Attach a Pair of Hockey Skates
502. How to Make Jelly
503. Cooling Maple Syrup on the Snow
504. How to Toast Marshmallows
505. White-Washing
506. Dressing and Curing Pork
507. Cooking When Mother is Away
508. Book-Binding
509. The Markings on One Kind of Old China
510. Arts and Crafts Jewelry
511. How to Catalogue One's Home Library
512. The Uses Children Make of Chairs
513. Mistakes that Women Make about Small Boys

514. Votes for Children
515. Training at a Large Hospital
516. My Experience in a Hospital
517. Necessity of a Hospital Bell
518. My Father's Occupation
519. John Bull in Cartoons
520. A Study of Lincoln in Cartoons (See Punch)
521. Styles in Stick-Pins (or anything else)
522. Training a Pompadour
523. What One Can do Without
524. Telephone Etiquette
525. Being Chairman of My Club
526. Amateur Floor-Painting
527. Making a Concrete Floor
528. Where to Look for Good Detective Stories
529. How to Tell Time by a Ship's Clock
530. The Efficiency Expert on Amusements
531. Novel Refreshments
532. How to Entertain a Group of Children—Out of Doors—
In Doors
533. Child's Play and Its Nonsense
534. How the Other Half Plays
535. The Difficulties of a Losing Team
536. Why Baseball is the Most Scientific of all Sports
537. Bareback Riding
538. Breaking a Colt
539. A Genuine Barn-Raising
540. Corn Roast in the Country
541. Climbing Trees
542. The History of Our Farm
543. Teaching a Sunday School Class
544. Ways of Filling in Odd Quarter Hours
545. Time-Saving Devices
546. The Time of Day When One Can Do His Best Work
547. Ten Minutes in a Boiler Room
548. Nature's Show-Window
549. Going Out of Sight of Houses
550. What One Learns Around the Station-Yard
551. How to Deal With a Book Agent
552. Packing a Trunk
553. Clothing Myself on a Moderate Allowance
554. Buying Stationery
555. Clay-Modeling
556. Wood-Working
557. Casting and Forging
558. Caring for Electric Clocks
559. Framing Pictures
560. Learning Memory Assignments

(d) To Be Accompanied With Illustrations or Diagrams

561. Christmas Presents I Can Make
562. The Landlord's Coat of Arms in "Tales of a Wayside Inn"
563. Some Experiments in Paper-Cutting
564. Flowers I Have Found in One Square Mile
565. A Scheme for a Sunken Garden
566. Some Deep-Sea Wonders
567. Styles in Wigs in Johnson's Time (or any other time)
568. An Elizabethan Costume
569. Building a Pushmobile
570. Effective Advertisements and Why
571. What I Can Whittle
572. Stage Setting for One Scene in "Macbeth"
573. A Satisfactory Bungalow for a Girls' or Boys' Camp
574. A New Grandstand for Our Athletic Field

IV. IN WHICH I ASK MYSELF QUESTIONS

575. Should the President Be Caricatured?
576. Should a Boy Have an Allowance?
577. Why Do Some People Never Catch Anything?
578. Has Recklessness any Rewards?

579. How do People get their Nicknames?
580. How Can I Let Her Win?
581. Why are some Girls so Popular?
582. Should We Follow the Styles?
583. What is Home?
584. Should Children Be Told About Santa Claus?
585. Who is My Neighbor?
586. What is a True Sport?
587. How does Gossip Travel?
588. What Laws Affect Me Directly?
589. How Can I Propitiate the Cook?
590. Does a Quiet Stone Gather Moss?
591. What does Our Flag Stand for?
592. Is Tact a Virtue?
593. What Shall I Say to Strangers?
594. What Profession Shall I Choose?
595. How Shall I Keep from Laughing at the Wrong Time?
596. What is the Best Way of Showing My Report to Mother?
597. Must the Dreadnought Go?
598. Would I Like Being a Shop Girl?
599. How Can I Improve My Sister or Brother?

V. SUBJECTS IN WHICH I GIVE FREE REIN TO MY FANCY

Students who possess vivid imaginations are more balked than aided by suggestive titles. They prefer to invent their own. Unimaginative pupils regard a request for pure fancy as almost inhuman. The following list, however, implies a broad definition of the word fancy. Every student may not be able to manage a cloud as a steed (see No. 609), but every student has an unfulfilled wish (see No. 617), if we are to believe the modern psychologist, and for the peace of his spirit, he should let it loose. Here, then, he may find expression for some of the whims, absurdities, speculations, and meditations that flit across his consciousness, never to emerge, once theme-days are over.

The group called "Poetic Self Starters" is intended to awaken in the student those connotations which graphic lines of poetry carry with them. The difficulty with topics of this sort is that the student views them as texts for a sermon, rather than as points of departure to his private patch of associated ideas. He needs to be warned against didacticism.

(a) Prose Subjects

600. Inventions We Hope For But Never Expect
601. How a Mirror Prevented a Crime
602. The Walking Boot Boasts to the Dancing Pump
603. S. O. S.
604. When Biddy Wields the Rolling Pin
605. The Headless Hat-Pin
606. The Man Without a Shoe
607. Midnight Talks
608. Afternoons Astray
609. Riding on a Cloud
610. The Peacemaker
611. My Oral Theme Dream
612. Voices in the Wind
613. The Consequences of a Forgotten Appointment
614. The Meeting that Wouldn't Come to Order

615. Stories a School Book Could Tell
616. What the Rumble and Rattle of an Electric Car Seem to Say
617. If I Could Have My Wish
618. A Perfumed Note
619. Thoughts I Associate with Candles
620. A Submarine Raid
621. Just a Bit of Musing
622. How I Should Spend a Hundred Dollars
623. Just a Bit of Curious Peering
624. An Excursion into the Realm of the Weird
625. Following the Hair-Pin Trail
626. Things Suggested by a Knowing Mind
627. Rain! Rain! Rain!
628. What I Would Do if I Were Lost
629. Bugaboos
630. The Dear Old Golden Rule
631. Goops
632. A Game Won by Pluck
633. What's the Use of Living?
634. A "Phony" Discovery
635. Aeroplaning above Mars
636. The Stranger's Story at the Inn
637. Lost—My Youth
638. Life on a Whaling Vessel
639. With the Fair Sex at the Polls
640. Every Silver Lining Has Its Cloud
641. Wishing on a Load of Hay
642. The Wedding Cake I Forgot to Dream On
643. Where the Wind Comes From
644. The Dreaded Prophecy
645. The Double Monogram
646. The Seventh Life of a Cat
647. The Beggar's Pedigree
648. Here Lie the Remains of—
649. At the Bottom of a Well
650. The Story I See in a Picture (The theme to be written in class on any picture which the student has cut out and brought to class)
651. The Little Bird that Always Tells
652. A Jungle Comedy
653. The Old Cow-Bell
654. A Late Telephone Call
655. A Barrel of "White Elephants"
656. Effect of Chimes on Noon-Day Crowds
657. The Mystery of the Scarlet Ink
658. An Encounter with My Own Ghost
659. The Treasure I Didn't Find
660. Footprints
661. The Slipper
662. The Haunted House
663. The Little Red Dress
664. When I Touch a Fairy Toadstool
665. A Persian Rug
666. The Site of This High School a Thousand Years Ago
667. The Child of the Willow Brook
668. Beyond the Dictionary
669. Grey Crows
670. Mother Goose Rhymes told in Modern Newspaper Style
671. A Travel Talk after Touring Our House
672. An Original Child's Story Illustrated
673. Trouble Caused by a Quick Retort
674. A Stage Setting and a Situation—To Be Written Up as One Scene of a Play
 1. Mary Elizabeth's Soda Fountain—Hero Waiting for Heroine
 2. Furnace Room in a Munitions Works—Unionists Complaining Against Over-time
675. A Modern Parable
676. An Essay on Red Geraniums

(b) Poetic Self-Starters for Prose Themes

- 677 The slippery verge her feet beguiled: She stumbled
headlong in! —Gray
678. A favorite has no friend —Gray
679. Welcome each rebuff —Browning
680. There's no art to find the mind's construction in
the face —Shakespeare
681. A perfect woman, nobly planned —Wordsworth
682. The golden, olden glory of the day gone by —Riley
683. Alone on a wide, wide sea —Coleridge
684. Childish fears are less than horrible imagining
—Shakespeare
685. The boast of heraldry —Gray
686. Demurest of the tabby kind —Gray
687. 'Tis the middle of night by the castle clock —Coleridge
688. Had I but plenty of money, money enough and to spare
—Browning
689. A sight to dream of, not to tell —Coleridge
690. Lord, what fools these mortals be! —Shakespeare
691. We walked along, while bright and red
Arose the morning sun —Wordsworth
692. The mountain and the squirrel had a quarrel —Emerson
693. I remember. I remember the house where I was born
—Hood
694. In a drear-nighted December —Keats
695. Then felt I like some watcher of the skies —Keats
696. I met a traveller from an antique land —Shelley
697. We wander'd to the Pine Forest that skirts the
Ocean's foam —Shelley
698. Into this wild abyss —Milton
699. What custom wills, in all things should we do't
—Shakespeare
700. This fellow is wise enough to play the fool —Shakespeare
701. As one who on a lonely road doth walk with fear
and dread —Coleridge
702. O world, thy slippery turns! —Shakespeare
703. Over the hills, and far away, Beyond their utmost
purple rim —Tennyson
704. Passing rich at forty pounds a year —Goldsmith
705. Content to let the north-wind roar —Whittier
706. Sweet is pleasure after pain —Dryden
707. She took me to her elfin grot —Keats
708. By sports like these are all their cares beguiled
—Goldsmith
709. Give me of your bark, O birch-tree —Longfellow
710. Little I ask: my wants are few —Holmes
711. A wet sheet and a flowing sea —Cunningham
712. Continual comfort in a face —Roydon
713. So many worlds, so much to do —Tennyson
714. But 'twas a famous victory —Southey
715. I am never merry when I hear sweet music —Shakespeare
716. Sighed and look'd, and sighed again —Dryden
717. Squandering wealth was his peculiar art —Dryden
718. Who's been bad today? —Eugene Field
719. On the cold hill's side —Keats
720. My bane and antidote are both before me —Cato
721. He comes,—he comes,—the Frost Spirit comes!
—Whittier
722. And I, I was a good child on the whole —Mrs. Browning
723. I am a part of all that I have met —Tennyson
724. What calls back the past like the rich Pumpkin pie!
—Whittier
725. I could a tale unfold —Shakespeare

(c) Suggestions for Poems

726. The Flame-Spirits
727. My Garden Flowers
728. A Serenade to Our Milk Man
729. Ode to the Morning
730. A Caterpillar's Lament on Hearing That His Brother is
Among the Squashed

- 731. Lines to my Dog Written in Dejection
- 732. Sonnet to My Waste-Basket
- 733. A Rhyme Without Reason

VI. SUBJECTS SUGGESTED BY MY READING AND STUDY

- 734. A Day at King Arthur's Court
- 735. Clare's Meeting with Marmion
- 736. De Wilton's Trial
- 737. What I would Have Done if I Had Been Elaine
- 738. My Opinion of Tennysons Arthur and My Reasons for It
- 739. How to Develop Good Taste in Reading
- 740. How to Cultivate Self Control
- 741. Self-Cultivation in Telling a Joke, Skating, Table Manners, Keeping One's Room Tidy, Gardening, Happiness, Tiddle-winks, etc.
- 742. A Meeting of the Raveloe Sewing Circle One Week after Silas Came to Town
- 743. If Godfrey had Confessed to Nancy Lammeter
- 744. Aaron and Eppie on their Fifth Anniversary
- 745. My Friends in Books
- 746. Longfellow's Love of Children as Shown in his Poetry
- 747. Longfellow's Love for the Sea as Expressed in his Poems
- 748. Two Girls—Evangeline and Priscilla
- 749. The Knighthood of Hiawatha
- 750. The Cross of Snow
- 751. The Saturday Morning Club, or Literary Reminiscences of The Parker House
- 752. What is the Real Story of Lincoln's Boyhood?
- 753. When Abe and I Went Down the Mississippi as Flat-boat Hands
- 754. The Flag of the Secession
- 755. Lincoln's Entrance into Richmond as Conqueror
- 756. Is it True that Lincoln Died at the Right Time for His Fame?
- 757. The Present House of Seven Gables
- 758. A Legend of My Own Family
- 759. A Modern Judge Pyncheon
- 760. From Witchcraft to Hypnotism
- 761. The History of the Province House
- 762. A Chat with Hawthorne at the Old Province House Bar
- 763. A Modern Twice Told Tale
- 764. Dramatization of the story of Lucie and Dr. Manette
- 765. Dramatization of scenes in the Cruncher Family
- 766. Interesting Prisoners of The Bastille
- 767. A Twentieth Century King Midas
- 768. Chancer's Opinion of Billy Sunday
- 769. My "Seven Wonders" of the World
- 770. My Feelings upon Seeing Motion Pictures of Dante's "Inferno"
- 771. With Our Faint Heart the Mountain Strives
- 772. Recollection of Uncle Remus
- 773. Bach and Mathematics
- 774. The Club Dines with Sir Joshua
- 775. A Cranford Poster
- 776. An Alice-in-Wonderland Party
- 777. The Brook Farm Experiment
- 778. A Beowulf Dream
- 779. The Unco Guid

VII. IN WHICH I OBSERVE

The biggest part of this game of snaring young people into writing freely is to keep their faith in the boundless sources of interest at their command. We need never pity them for leading a tame existence, not with their violent likes and dislikes, their admirations and prejudices, their pets and curios. Their world is not made up wholly of

people, places, animals, and things; yet this seems a safe division of the material within the range of their observation. Boys and girls do hold opinions on these three subjects. If not, an unusual twist to ordinary facts such as "Why People are Like Canned Goods" sometimes kindles fire. Give a student the chance to open out on "My Worst Enemy", "Our Neighbor's Hens". It at least clears the air of stuffiness after a conquest of the figures of speech and similar accessories, and it may serve as one of those fortunate occasions when "unity in description" slips out of the text-book into the student.

(a) *People*

780. The Baby in a Passion
781. A Dyspeptic in a Restaurant
782. He Meant Well
783. The Girl I Wanted to Meet
784. My Father as a Boy
785. Chatting With the Brakeman
786. The Advantages of Having a Sister
787. Human Vegetables I Have Known
788. My First Caller
789. People who Bore Me
790. My Ideals in People
791. Girls I Have Admired
792. How Teasers Endure Teasing
793. When Father talks Politics
794. How I Classify People
795. A Study in Chivalry
796. When the Bride Throws her Bonquet
797. A Well Bred Girl
798. Why the Twins Are Never Jealous of Each Other
799. How the Baby Passed his Time on the Railroad Train
800. The Most Impressive Person in the Circus
801. My First Love
802. Mother in the Garden
803. The Girl at the Wheel
804. A Queer Bridegroom
805. At the Toy-Shop Window
806. A Clever Disguise
807. The Only Galahad I Ever Saw
808. When a Man is More Curious than a Woman
809. Watching a Street Faker
810. Exacting Aunt Hannah
811. An Interesting Family
812. When Grandmother Came to Our House
813. A Santa Claus Who Did not Look the Part
814. A Modern Enid
815. My Next-Door Neighbor
816. Mrs. Respectability
817. The "Scrub" and the "Debutante"
818. The Owl and the Pussy Cat — The Professor and his Wife
819. The Insane Genius
820. My Friend, the Sailor
821. The Western Boy and the Corn Club Prize
822. The Freshman Across the Aisle
823. People I Have Copied
824. Things I Wish Our Doctor Wouldn't Do
825. Who's Who in My Family and Why
826. A Stranger that I Admired on Sight
827. The Man Who Needs My Shoes
828. Cooks We Have Had
829. My Tardy Friend
830. Getting Father Dressed for an Evening Entertainment
831. The Kind of a Minister I Do not Like
832. Pessimistic Mary

833. When Father is Ill
834. The Audience at a Country "Movie" Show
835. Judging Character by Ears
836. Comparative Study of Fathers
837. When Mother Cleans the Glory-Hole
838. Why People are Like Canned Goods
839. Study of Faces in a Street Car
840. The Family Putterer
841. A Freshman's Opinion of Sophomores
842. My Opinion of an Egotist
843. These People Who Love to Clean
844. Qualities Necessary for a Good Chaperon
845. Why My Rival Excels
846. My Worst Enemy
847. When Father Made a Mistake
848. The Whims of my Chum
849. Teachers I Have Had
850. Detectives and Pawn Shops
851. An Act of Heroism by One of Our Firemen
852. A Kitchen Orchestra
853. Tramps I Have Met
854. Our Dressmaker
855. A Freak I Once Knew
856. That Polite Person
857. The Pullman Porter
858. Old New England Traits Seen in My Neighbors
859. The Woman Who Would Give Parting Instructions—a Fable

(b) Places

860. My Corner in the Library
861. Sights from the Top of Bunker Hill
862. My Neighbor's Back Yard
863. Half an Hour on Boylston Street
864. Description of a Fire
865. My First Impressions of the College I am Going to Attend
866. Rummage Counters
867. Vespers in the Woods
868. On the Ferry
869. A Successful Grocery Store
870. My First Glimpse of New York
871. A Gypsy Camp
872. The Country Church
873. Gazing into a Store Window
874. The Most Attractive School-Room I Know
875. The Washington Elm
876. The Home of Louisa M. Alcott
877. Longfellow's Study
878. My Top Bureau Drawer
879. A Summer Hotel in Mid-Winter
880. A Thunder Storm in the Mountains
881. Alone in a Great Church
882. An Old-Fashioned Garden
883. The Children's Ward
884. A Deserted Farm
885. An Up-to-date Business Office
886. My First Impressions of the Theatre
887. A Colonial Kitchen
888. A Fire Sale
889. An Ideal Summer Cottage
890. In the Pullman
891. On the Deck of an Ocean Liner
892. A Street in the Slums
893. The Steerage
894. A View from the "Owl's Nest"
895. A Country Cemetery
896. A Gruesome Sight
897. The Ice Storm
898. The Bend in the Old Stone Wall
899. An Early Morning Walk in the Country
900. A Walk in the Rain
901. Themes to Express one quality as: silence, bleakness, heat, disorder, storm, comfort, strangeness, haste, peace, war

(c) Animals

- 902. Why Two Kittens are Better Than One
- 903. Does My Cat Think?
- 904. When the Cat Ate the Canary
- 905. My Experiences with Goldfish
- 906. Grandfather's Old Horse
- 907. Pets of which My Family Did not Approve
- 908. Pets I Have Loved and Lost
- 909. Talks I Have Had with My Canary
- 910. Instincts of Certain Animals
- 911. The Most Stupid Kind of Animal that I Know
- 912. The Mosquito as Guest
- 913. Heroes of My Acquaintance
- 914. How Hens Walk
- 915. Our Neighbor's Hens
- 916. Queer Bugs I Have Played With
- 917. The Lesson a Bee Teaches a Busy-Body
- 918. My Observations on Caterpillars and Their Moths
- 919. Facial Expressions of a Cat or Dog (i.e. to express fright, pleasure, anger or guilt)
- 920. Habits of the Neighbor's Dog
- 921. Enter, My Dog
- 922. The Greetings My Dog Gives Me
- 923. Queer Pets I Have Had
- 924. My Dog's Actions When I Pet the Cat
- 925. "Cat and Dog Life" at Our House
- 926. Why a Boy Needs a Dog
- 927. Troubles with a Frolicksome Dog and a Leaky Canoe

(d) Things

- 928. The Last Thing I Expect to Own
- 929. Queer Messages I Have Picked Up
- 930. Necessities I Do Not Like
- 931. Mistakes That People Make about Wireless
- 935. Sunday Night Suppers at Home
- 933. One Side of a Telephone Conversation
- 934. The Advantage (or Disadvantage) of Being Tall (or Short)
- 935. Kickers (Mechanical ones)
- 936. The Disadvantages of being Perfectly Healthy
- 937. The Old-Maid-Moon Has My Sympathy
- 938. Why Some Teachers do not have Discipline
- 939. When to go to Church
- 940. Humoring the Weather
- 941. The Disadvantages of Having Ears
- 942. Why I Wish I Were a Man
- 943. Why My Diary is Dear to Me
- 944. The Human Side of Shopping
- 945. Telling the Season by the Flower-Shops
- 946. Planning my Party
- 947. The Wetness of Water
- 948. The Penny Rolling Up Hill
- 949. Exceptions That Do Not Prove the Rule
- 950. My First Secret Society
- 951. Feathers
- 952. What I Can See from Our Pew
- 953. A Love Letter to my Alarm Clock
- 954. What I Would Do with a Show Window
- 955. How My Room Is Haunted
- 956. When They Clean House Next Door
- 957. Treasures of Our Attic
- 958. My Souvenir Drawer
- 959. What Keeps My Door Open
- 960. Andirons
- 961. My Room as I Should Like to Furnish It
- 962. The Consequences of Never Keeping My Possessions In Order
- 963. When the Teacher forgot to Assign a Home Lesson
- 964. My Note-Books and Some Others
- 965. What the English Language Would Mean to Me Without the Word "Why"

966. Notes Received in School
967. Why I Like to Collect Poems
968. When the Engineer Could not Heat the School Building
969. What I Expect College Life to be
970. Why Grown-Ups Fail to Appreciate Fairyland
971. If I Had My School Life to Live Over Again
972. How I Memorize
973. On the Writing of a Sonnet
974. Latin and Why it is so Popular
975. Things I Should Like to Know
976. How English Should be Taught in the High Schools
977. Why I Like (any piece of literature)
978. The Sunday Supplement,
979. My Ideal Library
980. My Old Nine Mother Goose Favorites
981. Pleasures of Inflicting Self-Punishment
982. Being Unconventional
983. The Value of a Sense of Humor
984. Ideals and Reals
985. The Fascination of The Forbidden
986. The Delights of Loitering
987. Minding Another's Business
988. The Folly of Being too Sensitive
989. Accepting Censure Philosophically
990. What I Have Learned from Our Victrola
991. Sunday School Concert
992. "Terribly Out of Practice"
993. The Joys of Ragtime
994. Sounds from the Barnyard
995. The Popular Song I Could Not Forget
996. Why I Prefer the Organ to the Piano
997. Why I Like (any piece of music)
998. The Best Cartoons I Remember
999. The Art of Reaching School in Time
1000. What An Invalid is Supposed to Like
1001. What an Invalid Likes
1002. When Opposites Don't Attract
1003. The Difficulties of Overcoming Conceit
1004. The Pleasure of Cutting Things
1005. Pulling the Wool over { His Eyes
Her Eyes
1006. Why I like (any picture or piece of sculpture)
1007. Why I Like a Grocery Store
1008. Looking Over Old Photographs
1009. Our Family Pictures
1010. The Worst Photograph I Ever Had
1011. Pictures I Should Like to Own
1012. How I Would Dress if I Were a Girl
1013. What I Thought of the Way My Mother Dressed Me
1014. How our Closets Reveal Our Personality
1015. The Oldest Thing I Own
1016. The Most Hideous Dress I Ever Saw
1017. The Cheering Effect of White Shoes
1018. Rubber Overshoes
1019. Umbrellas I Have Had
1020. What Allures in Shoe Advertisements
1021. The Effect of My New Clothes on Other People
1022. Fits and Misfits In Shoes, Tent-Mates etc.
1023. My Beloved Old Clothes
1024. Different Ways of Breaking the Eighth Commandment
1025. A Virtue That I Cannot Admire
1026. The Value of Debating on the Side to which One is Opposed
1027. Doing Things for My Own Good
1028. Solemnity—A Virtue and a Vice
1029. The Art of Fishing (not for Fish)
1030. Bluffing Has Compensations
1031. How I Lost an Ambition
1032. First Names That I Hate
1033. The Quickest Way to Make Me Furious
1034. If Anyone Really Wants to Please Me
1035. The First Day of the Month
1036. Transitory Things—My Allowance, My Box of Huyler's

1037. My Cash Account
1038. My Debts — Other than Financial
1039. My First Investment
1040. The Red and the Yellow
1041. An Ideal Picnic Lunch
1042. My Idea of a Square Meal
1043. Why Boys Collect Horse Chestnuts
1044. Blueberry Pie
1045. Making Believe
1046. Why I Like Bungalows
1047. Smiles
1048. The Usefulness of the "I Am Blind" Sign
1049. An Architect's First House
1050. Knocking on Wood
1051. "Shop Early"
1052. Boarding Out
1053. My Preferences
1054. The Country Dance
1055. Grandmother's Sampler
1056. Our Latch String is Always Out
1057. The Question I Omitted on My Examination
1058. Frictional Electricity as Generated by an Angry Parent's Hand
1059. Social Errors I Have Known
1060. What My Father Tries Hardest to Teach Me
1061. What I Know about My Great-Grandfather
1062. The Father's Part in Life
1063. Scaring My Sister in the Dark
1064. My Mother's Apron-String
1065. How My Family Regards My Theme Nights
1066. The Cruelty of Children to Parents
1067. Two Sides of the Question: Mother's and Mine
1068. Family Dialect
1069. My Father's Pet Story
1070. When My Sister Tries to Reform Me
1071. My One Regret
1172. Why I Like Red Hair
1075. My Pet Aversion
1074. The Luxury I Want
1075. How I Put Myself to Sleep
1076. Letters I Like to Receive
1077. The Traits I Admire Most in { Children
Animals
Other People
Myself, etc.
1078. Bridges I Have Burned
1079. What I Want (or Do Not Want) Inscribed on My Tomb

It is of course apparent that the divisions here used are not mutually exclusive, and some of the topics listed in one division might with perfect propriety be listed in another division. But as the purpose of the list is to stimulate interest and to arouse latent power, the details of the division are of secondary importance. What we wish to secure is vitality in composition work, and this is most readily secured by an appeal to the personal.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Please come prepared to pay your annual dues to the treasurer, Mr. F. W. C. Hersey.

We call special attention to two names on the enclosed program—Mr. Robert Frost and Professor Erskine. We bespeak for them the cordial welcome which their worth and work so richly deserve.

The members of the Association are urged to invite to our Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 18th, all teachers and friends who are interested in securing better English work in our schools. We are asking each member of the Association to bring to the attention of the younger teachers of English, in New England and elsewhere, a knowledge of the advantages which are offered by the New England Association of Teachers of English. Everywhere in the United States there are being organized associations of which we are the pioneers. We must see that our influence is kept vital in our own midst.

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